DR. STRANGE
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# DOCTOR STRANGE™

## MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS

RITES OF PASSAGE... RITES OF DEATH!

THE DREAD DORMAMMU LIVES AGAIN--AND DOCTOR STRANGE MUST DIE!

Once he was a man like most *others* —a *worldly* man, seduced and jaded by *material* things. But then he discovered the *separate* reality, where *sorcery* and *men's souls* shaped the forces that shape our *lives*. In that instant, he was *born again*, to become a man like *no* other—a man who left us *behind*, as he strove to stand against the unseen subtle perils hovering *thick* and *black* around our fragile existence...and so began the mystic majesty of..... *DR. STRANGE!*

# Stan Lee presents: Dr. STRANGE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!™

STEVE ENGLEHART / STORY | GENE COLAN / PENCILS | TOM PALMER / INKS | JOHN COSTANZA, letterer / TOM PALMER, colorist | LEN WEIN / EDITOR

## RIGHTS OF PASSAGE!

From the sacred scrolls of the ancient one:
...and ORINI, who was chief disciple to the dread DORMAMMU, ordered the demons of the dark domain to DESTROY Dr. Strange and Clea...
...who stood DEFENSELESS...
...for UMAR THE UNRELENTING had STOLEN the sorcerer supreme's scant hours before...
I--I CANNOT RAISE MY HAND AGAINST HIM, STEPHEN--
--NO MATTER WHAT HE DOES!
...and ORINI was Clea's own FATHER!

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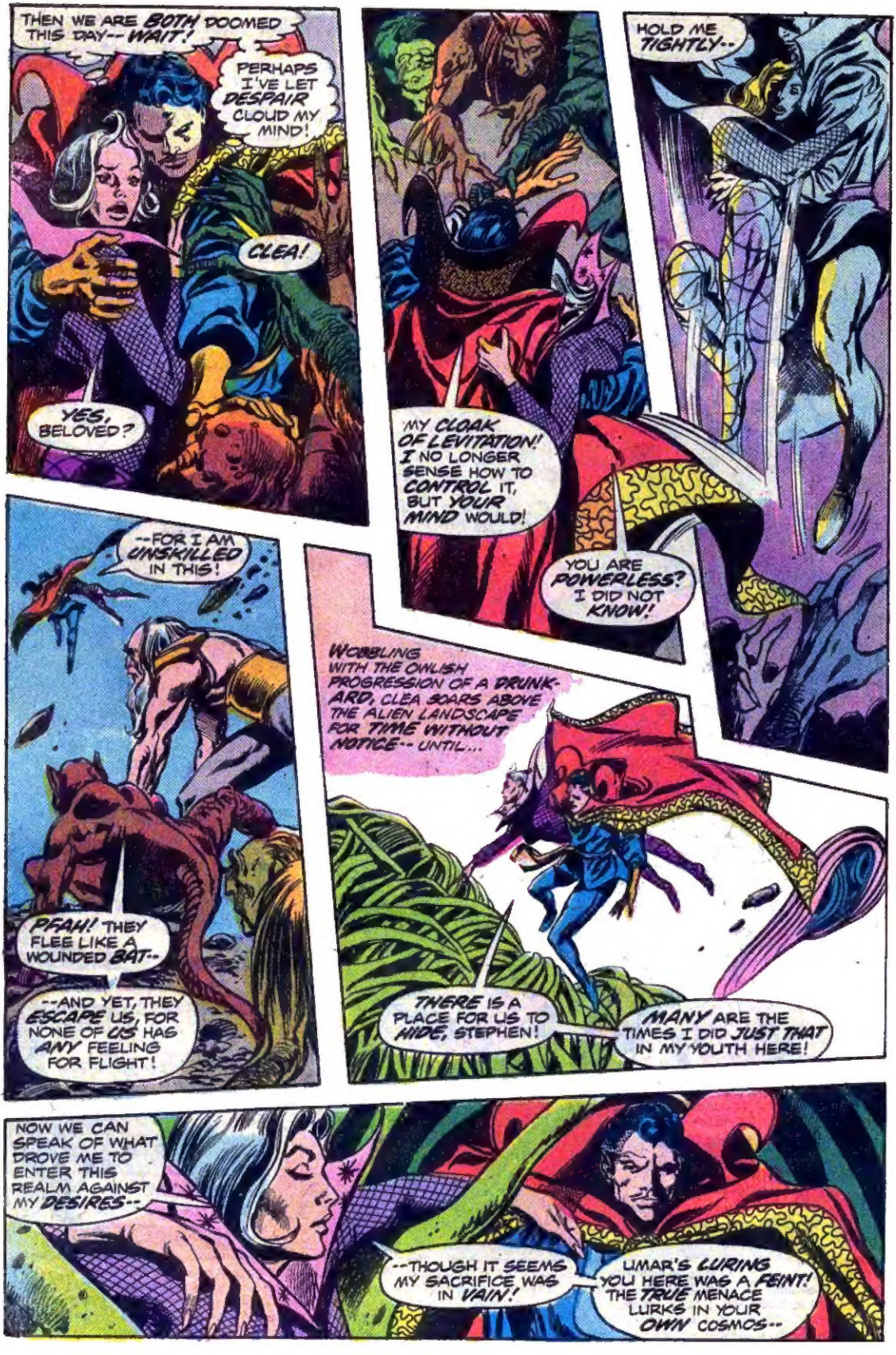
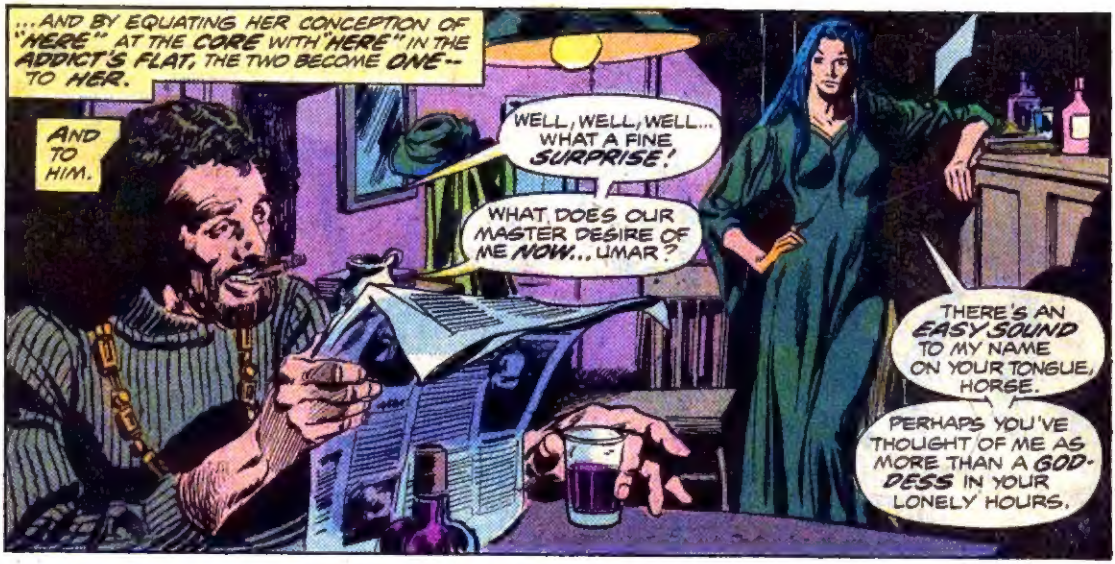

THEN WE ARE BOTH DOOMED THIS DAY-- WAIT!
PERHAPS I'VE LET DESPAIR CLOUD MY MIND!
CLEA!
YES, BELOVED?
MY CLOAK OF LEVITATION! I NO LONGER SENSE HOW TO CONTROL IT, BUT YOUR MIND WOULD!
YOU ARE POWERLESS? I DID NOT KNOW!
HOLD ME TIGHTLY--
--FOR I AM UNSKILLED IN THIS!
PFAH! THEY FLEE LIKE A WOUNDED BAT--
--AND YET, THEY ESCAPE US, FOR NONE OF US HAS ANY FEELING FOR FLIGHT!
WOBBLING WITH THE OWLISH PROGRESSION OF A DRUNKARD, CLEA SOARS ABOVE THE ALIEN LANDSCAPE FOR TIME WITHOUT NOTICE-- UNTIL...
THERE IS A PLACE FOR US TO HIDE, STEPHEN!
MANY ARE THE TIMES I DID JUST THAT IN MY YOUTH HERE!
NOW WE CAN SPEAK OF WHAT DROVE ME TO ENTER THIS REALM AGAINST MY DESIRES--
--THOUGH IT SEEMS MY SACRIFICE WAS IN VAIN!
UMAR'S LURING YOU HERE WAS A FEINT! THE TRUE MENACE LURKS IN YOUR OWN COSMOS--

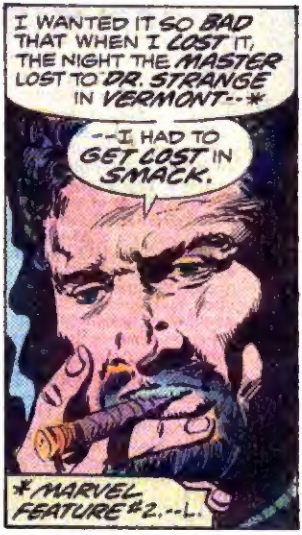
--FOR THE DREAD ONE LIES INCUBATING AT THE EARTH'S MOLTEN CORE!
DORMAMMU!
I SUSPECTED AS MUCH--JUST AS I SUSPECTED THAT UMAR'S CHALLENGE WAS A SNARE!
ORDER THE CLOAK TO LIFT ME INTO THE POSITION OF NIRVANA, CLEA. PERHAPS MEDITATION WILL PROVIDE US WITH THE MEANS OF RESTITUTION!
YOU, AS YET, LACK THE WILL TO UNDO UMAR'S ENCHANTMENT--
--BUT BETWEEN US, WE'LL FIND WHATEVER ANSWER THERE IS!
IT WAS ONLY THAT WHICH KEPT MY LIFE'S SPARK FROM FLICKERING OUT ALONG WITH MY KNOWLEDGE!
WAIT! WAIT, STEPHEN!
LET ME FREE MY MIND FOR ANOTHER MOMENT! I HAVE FOUND SOMETHING ELSE--
--A DOLL--
--WITH WHICH I ONCE PLAYED AS A GIRL!
IT HAS BEEN SO HARD-- FACING MY FATHER AGAIN, AFTER DEFYING HIM AND OUR SOCIETY TO AID AND LOVE YOU!
LET ME FLOAT ON SEAS OF MEMORY AWHILE--
--TO YOUNGER TIMES--
--WHEN THE DARK DOMAIN WAS A WONDROUS PLACE.
DORMAMMU WAS UNQUESTIONED MASTER--WE UNQUESTIONING SLAVES...

"BUT CHIEF AMONG THE SLAVES... PRIVILEGED TO SIT AT THE MASTER'S SIDE...
"...WAS MY FATHER!
"HOW GODLIKE IS THE MAN WHO SPEAKS WITH GOD! HOW I WORSHIPPED THEM BOTH!
"...SO HOW COULD I COMPLAIN IF THE OTHER CHILDREN REGARDED ME WITH AWED RESERVE...
"...OR IF MY FATHER LEFT ME OFTEN ALONE WHILE HE TENDED THE DREAD ONE'S AFFAIRS?
"I KNEW NO DISCONTENT WITH MY LOT... TILL I SAW YOU, COME TO STRUGGLE WITH DORMAMMU FOR THE FREEDOM OF YOUR REALM."
THEN, I FORSOOK ALL THAT I WAS-- DAUGHTER, PRINCESS AMONG SLAVES--
--TO BECOME A WOMAN WITH YOU.
IN YOUR MEMORIES LIES OUR ANSWER, BELOVED!
IF YOUR FATHER IS THE SOLE MYSTIC HERE--
--IT IS WITH HIM THAT THE REQUISITE POWER RESIDES!
COME-- LET'S SEE IF WE CAN OBTAIN IT FROM HIM SOMEHOW!
YOU DO NOT KNOW HIM, STEPHEN! HIS LOYALTY TO DORMAMMU IS UNWAVERING! NOT EVEN FOR ME WOULD HE BETRAY HIS MASTER--
--ESPECIALLY NOT FOR ME, SINCE I DID BETRAY HIM!
EH?
CLEE-AAA!
ASAIN I SEND MY APPARITION TO THEE, CLEE-AAA, THOUGH THOU ART FAR AND AGONE! I NEED THY SUCCOR, SOON, FOR MY PAIN DOTH FAST INCREASE!
IT'S THE SPIRIT OF EARTH-- THE ONE YOU CALL MOTHER NATURE!

MY TIME IS ALMOST UPON MEEEEE...
WHAT DID YOU SEE THERE, CLEA? MY EYES BEHELD NOTHING BUT THE EMPTY SKY!
THEN YOU ARE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, STEPHEN, FOR EVEN ONE AS NEWLY-TAUGHT AS I FELT THE GODDESS' PRESENCE LIKE A CRUSHING HUG!
IT WAS SHE WHO FIRST WARNED ME OF DORMAMMU--SHE WHOSE EARTHEN MANIFESTATION HAS BEEN VIOLATED BY HIS HELLISH PENETRATION--
--AND SHE WHO MUST BEAR THE STRAIN OF HIS GHASTLY REBIRTH!
COME! YOU ARE RIGHT. WE MUST FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE THIS PLACE, WITHOUT FURTHER WASTE OF TIME!
FROM HER TONE, THE DREAD ONE IS CLOSE TO COMING FORTH!
INDEED, ON OUR HOME SPHERE...
I HAVE SUFFERED A SETBACK, DEAR SISTER--BUT NOT A SERIOUS ONE!
THOUGH THE SCARLET WITCH AND HER SYNTHETIC LOVER THWARTED MY RE-VENGE UPON HER--*
*GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS #4. --LEN.
--STILL DO MY POWER AND GLORY INCREASE AS ALWAYS--AND WHEN I AM FULLY RECOVERED--
--THEY SHALL YET FEEL MY WRATH!
THIS IS A TIME, THEN, FOR THE TYING OF LOOSE ENDS! YOU, UMAR--
--MAY DESTROY THAT SNIVELING ADDICT WHO FAILED TO KILL CLEA AT MY COMMAND! *
*LAST ISH. --L
YES, BROTHER.
AS ALWAYS, YOUR WORD IS MY WISH!
THE SNAP OF HER FINGERS IS A FRAGILE SOUND, NEARLY INAUDIBLE AGAINST THE INFERNAL ROAR AROUND THEM...
...BUT FORCES SHIFT WITH THAT IMPERIOUS GESTURE...


...AND BY EQUATING HER CONCEPTION OF "MERE" AT THE CORE WITH "HERE" IN THE ADDICT'S FLAT, THE TWO BECOME ONE--TO HER.
AND TO HIM.
WELL, WELL, WELL... WHAT A FINE SURPRISE!
WHAT DOES OUR MASTER DESIRE OF ME NOW... UMAR?
THERE'S AN EASY SOUND TO MY NAME ON YOUR TONGUE, HORSE.
PERHAPS YOU'VE THOUGHT OF ME AS MORE THAN A GODDESS IN YOUR LONELY HOURS.

PERHAPS I HAVE--BECAUSE I'VE SEEN MYSELF AS MORE LIKE A GOD SINCE I DISCOVERED THE SERVICE OF THE DREAD ONE!
I WANTED POWER, AND I FOUND IT IN HIM!

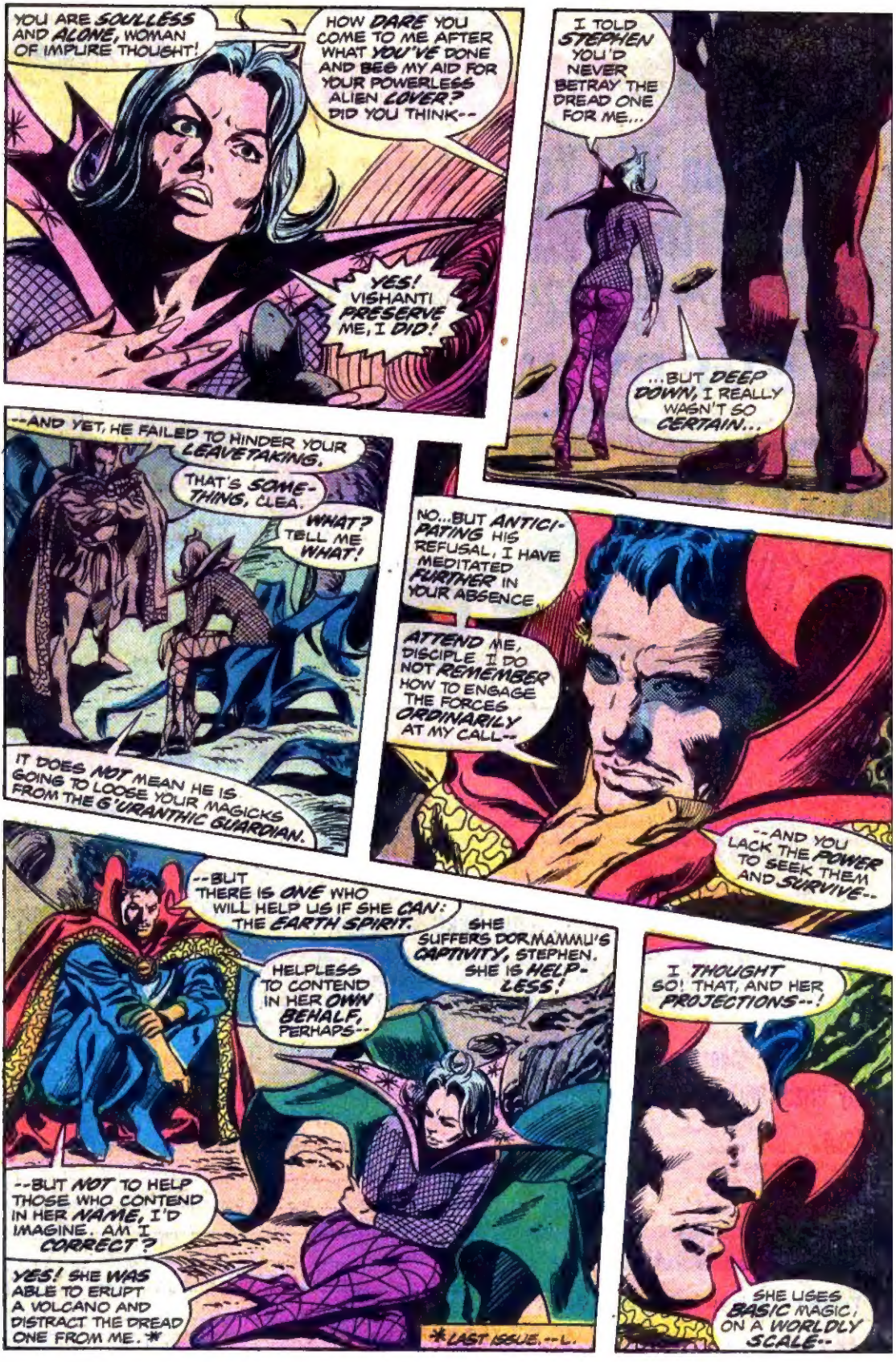

I WANTED IT SO BAD THAT WHEN I LOST IT, THE NIGHT THE MASTER LOST TO DR. STRANGE IN VERMONT--*
--I HAD TO GET LOST IN SMACK.
*MARVEL FEATURE #2.--L.

BUT I KICKED IT WHEN HE RETURNED--AND SENT YOU TO ME. YOU KNOW...
HORSE, SOMEDAY I AM GOING TO RULE BOTH YOUR DIMENSION AND MINE...

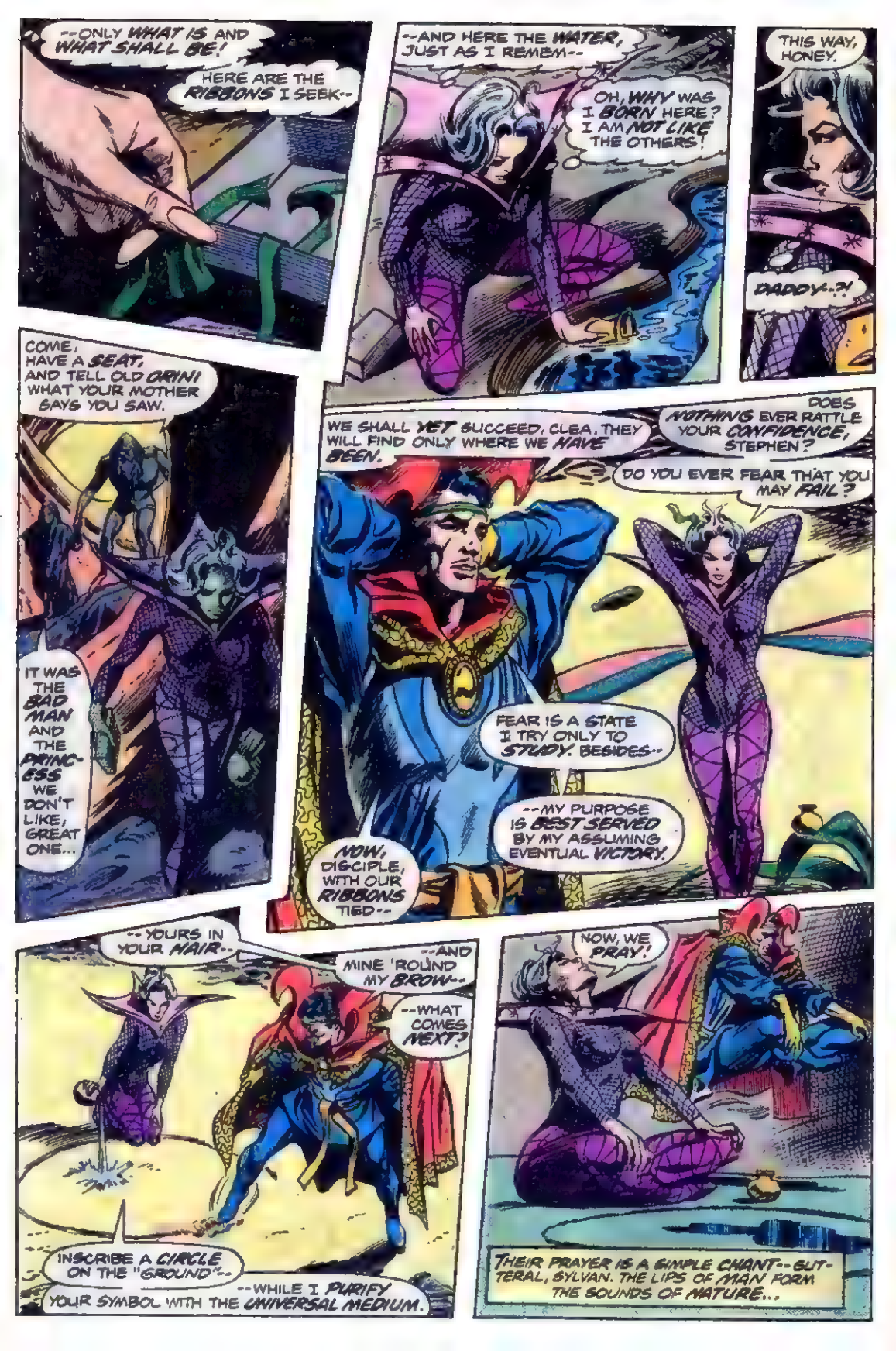
...SO IF YOU THINK I CARE FOR YOUR DISGUSTINGLY HUMAN HANDS ON MY PERSON--

--YOU ARE WRONG!
WH-WHAT'S THAT YOU'VE CONJURED UP?

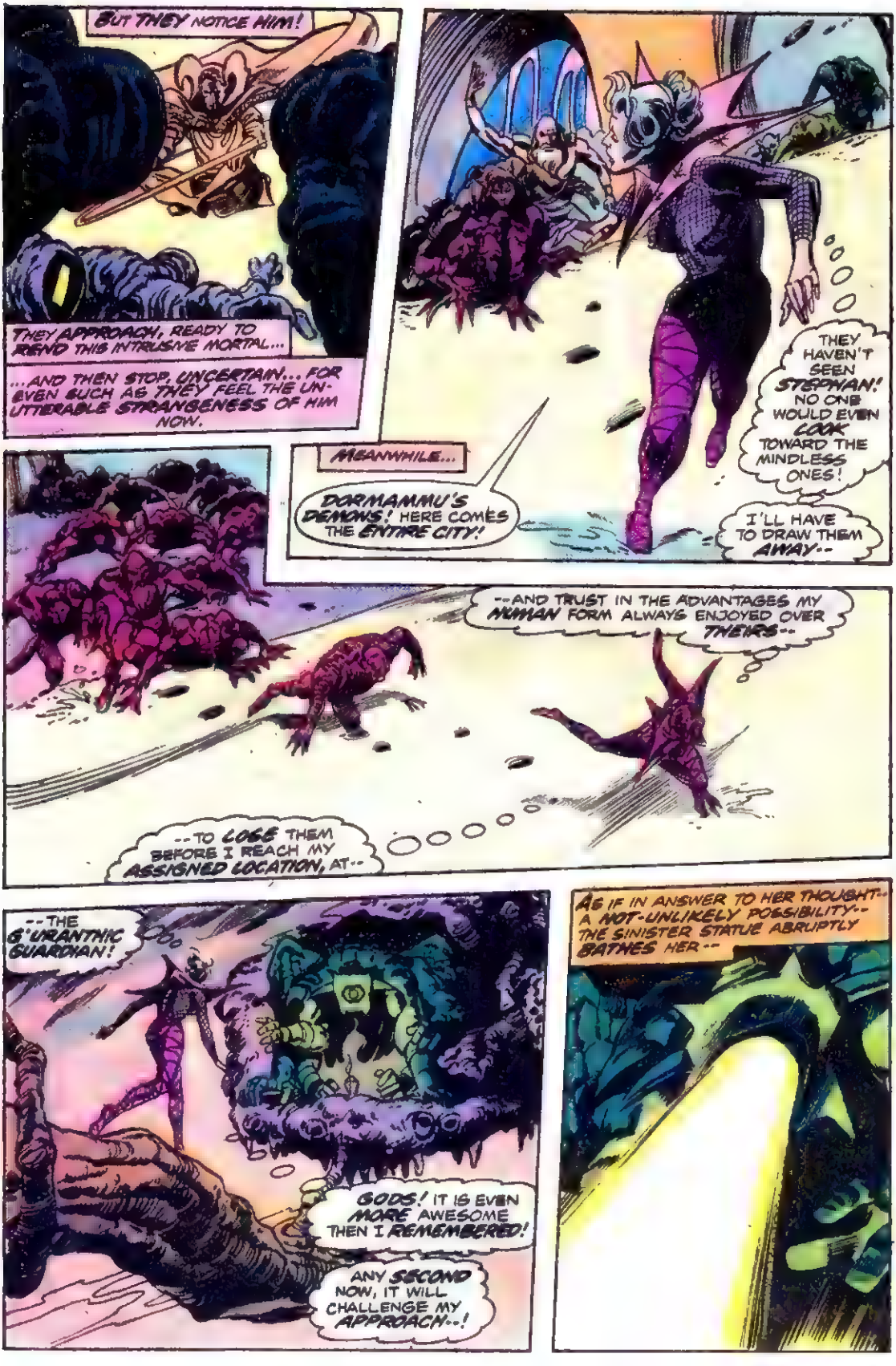
A HYPODERMIC SYRINGE, HORSE. ONCE IT WAS YOUR MOST TREASURED GOAL IN LIFE, WAS IT NOT?
BUT NOT ANY MORE! I TOLD YOU, I KICKED IT!
HOW CONVENIENT, SINCE I WISH YOU TO DIE!
I SERVE MY BROTHER FAITHFULLY, HORSE --TILL THE VERY MOMENT I TURN UPON HIM!
THAT MUCH STUFF WOULD KILL ME NOW!
HORSE HEARS MORE, BUT HE'S NOT LISTENING...
...NOT UNLIKE ANOTHER IN OUR STORY.
CLEA! WHAT A SPITEFUL CHILD TO SHAME ME AS SHE DID AND THEN RETURN TO RUB MY NOSE IN IT!
WOULD THAT I HAD THE MASTER'S POWER TO REND THE BARRIER HOLDING THE MINDLESS ONES AT BAY!
I'D SAVOR THEIR CONTINUOUS COMBAT, AS A ANTIDOTE TO THESE MEMORIES!
I'VE BEEN CHIEF DISCIPLE SINCE BEFORE SHE WAS BORN, OF COURSE--
--YET I'VE NEVER FELT MY POWER LESS SECURE IN MY GRASP! THERE ARE OTHERS WHO LUST AFTER MY STATUS, AND THIS NEW DISGRACE--
EH?
DADDY?
DADDY, DON'T WALK AWAY AS IF YOU DON'T HEAR ME! PLEASE, I--
--WANT TO TALK WITH YOU.
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR POSITION, AND ABOUT ME-- BUT I NEED MY FATHER'S AID NOW--
YOU HAVE NO FATHER NOW, CLEA, AND YOU NEVER HAD A MOTHER!


YOU ARE SOULLESS AND ALONE, WOMAN OF IMPURE THOUGHT!
HOW DARE YOU COME TO ME AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE AND BEG MY AID FOR YOUR POWERLESS ALIEN LOVER? DID YOU THINK--
YES! VISHANTI PRESERVE ME, I DID!
I TOLD STEPHEN YOU'D NEVER BETRAY THE DREAD ONE FOR ME...
...BUT DEEP DOWN, I REALLY WASN'T SO CERTAIN...
--AND YET, HE FAILED TO HINDER YOUR LEAVETAKING.
THAT'S SOMETHING, CLEA.
WHAT? TELL ME WHAT!
IT DOES NOT MEAN HE IS GOING TO LOOSE YOUR MAGICKS FROM THE G'URANTHIC GUARDIAN.
NO...BUT ANTICIPATING HIS REFUSAL, I HAVE MEDITATED FURTHER IN YOUR ABSENCE.
ATTEND ME, DISCIPLE II DO NOT REMEMBER HOW TO ENGAGE THE FORCES ORDINARILY AT MY CALL--
--AND YOU LACK THE POWER TO SEEK THEM AND SURVIVE--
--BUT THERE IS ONE WHO WILL HELP US IF SHE CAN: THE EARTH SPIRIT.
SHE SUFFERS DORMAMMU'S CAPTIVITY, STEPHEN. SHE IS HELPLESS!
HELPLESS TO CONTEND IN HER OWN BEHALF, PERHAPS--
--BUT NOT TO HELP THOSE WHO CONTEND IN HER NAME, I'D IMAGINE. AM I CORRECT?
YES! SHE WAS ABLE TO ERUPT A VOLCANO AND DISTRACT THE DREAD ONE FROM ME.*
*LAST ISSUE.--L.
I THOUGHT SO! THAT, AND HER PROJECTIONS--!
SHE USES BASIC MAGIC, ON A WORLDLY SCALE--

--PAGAN MAGIC--
--AND AS DISCIPLE TO THE SORCERER SUPREME, YOU MUST KNOW PAGAN RITUALS WE CAN UTILIZE!
I DO, BUT--
--BUT HOW COULD YOU DEDUCE ALL OF THAT WITH NO KNOWLEDGE OF SORCERY?
I RETAIN MY KNOWLEDGE OF REASON, CLEA.
THOUGH THEY ARE NOT THE SAME, ONE CAN CARICATURE THE OTHER.
OH!
A LITTLE GIRL--!
YOU'RE--
--YOU'RE THE BAD PEOPLES MY MAMA WARNED ME ABOUT!
I'M GONNA TELL!
YOU ARE! YOU ARE!
JUMP: SIX MINUTES...
NOW I MUST WORK QUICKLY, TO OBTAIN WHAT THE RITUAL REQUIRES BEFORE THAT GIRL SPREADS THE ALARM!
THERE LIES THE CITY, AS YET UNAROUSED.
I COULD HAVE STOPPED HER, I SUPPOSE--BUT SHE LOOKED SO MUCH LIKE ME--AND ACTED AS I WOULD AT THAT AGE.
I CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL LIKE THE CRIMINAL THEY CONSIDER ME HERE--
--AND ENTERING MY OWN HOUSE BY STEALTH--
--CANNOT EASE MY MIND!
MY OLD HOUSE--
--MY OLD ROOM!
EVERYTHING IS EXACTLY AS I LEFT IT, SO MANY YEARS AGO! IT'S AS IF--
--EVERYTHING FROZE AT THAT INSTANT!
STOP IT, WOMAN! THERE'S NO TIME FOR WHAT WAS--


--ONLY WHAT IS AND WHAT SHALL BE!
HERE ARE THE RIBBONS I SEEK--
--AND HERE THE WATER, JUST AS I REMEM--
OH, WHY WAS I BORN HERE? I AM NOT LIKE THE OTHERS!
THIS WAY, HONEY.
DADDY--?!
COME, HAVE A SEAT, AND TELL OLD ORINI WHAT YOUR MOTHER SAYS YOU SAW.
IT WAS THE BAD MAN AND THE PRINCESS WE DON'T LIKE, GREAT ONE...
WE SHALL YET SUCCEED, CLEA, THEY WILL FIND ONLY WHERE WE HAVE BEEN.
DOES NOTHING EVER RATTLE YOUR CONFIDENCE, STEPHEN?
DO YOU EVER FEAR THAT YOU MAY FAIL?
FEAR IS A STATE I TRY ONLY TO STUDY. BESIDES--
--MY PURPOSE IS BEST SERVED BY MY ASSUMING EVENTUAL VICTORY.
NOW, DISCIPLE, WITH OUR RIBBONS TIED--
--YOURS IN YOUR HAIR--
--AND MINE 'ROUND MY BROW--
--WHAT COMES NEXT?
INSCRIBE A CIRCLE ON THE "GROUND"--
--WHILE I PURIFY YOUR SYMBOL WITH THE UNIVERSAL MEDIUM.
NOW, WE PRAY!
THEIR PRAYER IS A SIMPLE CHANT--GUTTERAL, SYLVAN. THE LIPS OF MAN FORM THE SOUNDS OF NATURE...

...'TIL EMOTIONS RISE...
...AND A PEAK IS REACHED...
...AND A MAN AS IGNORANT AS DR. STRANGE IS NOW MUST CAST HIS MOST PRECIOUS POSSESSION INTO THE PURIFIED RING!
THE COSMOS QUIVERS...
...THE DOOR IS OPENED...
...AND THE RING RISES ON THE ETHER TO ENCIRCLE THEM IN GOLD!
DR. STRANGE CHANTS ON, FOR POWER SPEAKS TO HIM--
--WHILE CLEA SENSES IT IS TIME FOR HER TO MOVE AWAY.
SHE DIRECTS HIS CLOAK AS THEY DECIDED...
...AND WATCHES, AS CALMLY AS SHE CAN, HIS LEVITATION TOWARD... THE MINDLESS ONES!
ENGROSSED IN POWER, HE APPEARS NOT TO NOTICE...
...NOR DOES HE NOTICE THE SKITTERING CRACKLE OF HIS PASSAGE THROUGH THE BARRIER SURROUNDING THEM.

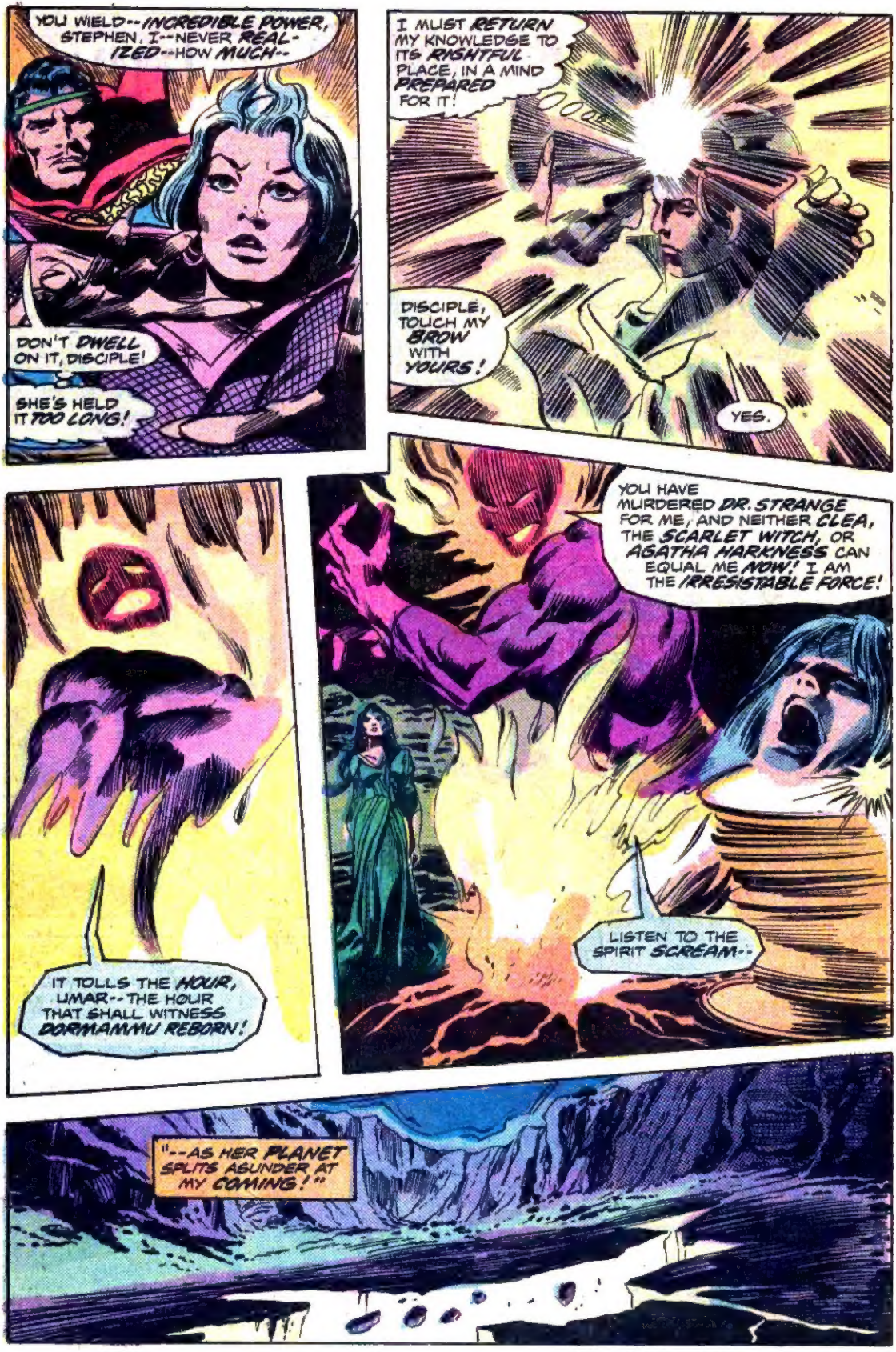

BUT THEY NOTICE HIM!
THEY APPROACH, READY TO REND THIS INTRUSIVE MORTAL...
...AND THEN STOP, UNCERTAIN... FOR EVEN SUCH AS THEY FEEL THE UNUTTERABLE STRANGENESS OF HIM NOW.
THEY HAVEN'T SEEN STEPHAN! NO ONE WOULD EVEN LOOK TOWARD THE MINDLESS ONES!
I'LL HAVE TO DRAW THEM AWAY--
MEANWHILE...
DORMAMMU'S DEMONS! HERE COMES THE ENTIRE CITY!
--AND TRUST IN THE ADVANTAGES MY HUMAN FORM ALWAYS ENJOYED OVER THEIRS--
--TO LOSE THEM BEFORE I REACH MY ASSIGNED LOCATION, AT--
--THE G'URANTHIC GUARDIAN!
GODS! IT IS EVEN MORE AWESOME THEN I REMEMBERED!
ANY SECOND NOW, IT WILL CHALLENGE MY APPROACH--!
AS IF IN ANSWER TO HER THOUGHT-- A NOT-UNLIKELY POSSIBILITY-- THE SINISTER STATUE ABRUPTLY BATHES HER --

--WITH A BEAM OF BURSTING BRILLIANCE--
--BRINGING BLACKNESS TO HER BRAIN!
PAIN SO INTENSE--BUT--NO OTHER WAY--!
DONE--ALL I COULD! NOW--UP TO YOU--MY LOVE--!
AS IF IN ANSWER TO HER THOUGHT, DR. STRANGE FEELS THE FORCE TO WHICH HE'S COUPLED SURGE WITHIN HIM!
HIS ENTIRE BEING--EVERYTHING AT HIS COMMAND--CONSISTS OF ONE WISH--ONE VALUED COURSE OF ACTION! HE HOLDS THE CREST--
--HOLDS IT--
--AND THEN TRIGGERS!
VISIBLE ENERGY BLANKETS THE MINDLESS ONES! IN ONE BERSERK RESPONSE, EVERY ONE OF THEM LOOSES ITS EYE-BEAM--
--AND SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE G'URANTHIC GUARDIAN'S EYE-BEAM TURNS FROM DEATH-RAY TO...SOMETHING ELSE!

IT DRAINS ITSELF--
--INTO ONE SLIM, UNMOVING FORM.
WHILE ON EARTH...
...THE SUN SHINES BRIGHT IN LONDON'S WINTER SKY... AND SNOW PELTS SAN FRANCISCO! NATURE HAS LOST CONTROL...
...FOR NATURE IS A CAPTIVE IN THE CAVERNS FAR BELOW!
UMAR! HE BE SO MUCH LARGER THAN EVEN I, NOW!
AT LAST, HE MOVES TO BE FREE! WHATEVER ELSE, THOU ART WOMAN...
I, SPIRIT? A WOMAN?
UMAR! A WOMAN!
AHHAH
AND SOMEWHERE IN THE PALE MANHATTAN DAWN...
...A JUNKIE'S LEG SHUDDERS.
CLEA!
SHE HAS TO BE ALIVE! RECEIVING MY POWER WOULD HAVE PROTECTED HER!
SHE HAS TO BE ALIVE!

OUR PAGAN RITE WAS THE SIMPLEST FORM OF CEREMONY!
THE WEARING OF GREEN FOR NATURE-- THE VOODOO-LIKE USE OF THE MINDLESS ONES AS TOTEMS FOR THE GUARDIAN--!
AWAKEN, CLEA! AWAKEN!
:UNNNHHH:
STEPHEN, IT-- IT HAPPENED!
STEPHEN! I CAN FEEL ALL YOUR POWER WITHIN ME!
THEN USE IT, BELOVED, AS BEST YOU KNOW HOW--
--BECAUSE OUR PURSUERS HAVE FINALLY CAUGHT US!
ALL RIGHT! A BOLT OF BEDEVILMENT SHOULD HALT THEIR ADVANCE!
OH, STEPHEN-- IT'S SO WEIRD! SORCERY JUST POURS OUT OF ME!
I GAVE YOU ONE CHANCE TO DEPART THE DARK DOMAIN IN PEACE, WOMAN... IN FOOLISH MEMORY OF WHAT ONCE WAS!
NO FURTHER ALLOWANCE--
--CAN YOU EXPECT!

NOW, IN THE NAME OF THE DREAD DORMAMMU--
--YOU AND THE ALIEN DIE!!
NO!!
GOOD, CLEA! YOUR SHIELD WAS--
OH, FATHER! THAT YOU COULD STRIKE WITH SUCH HATE-- AT ME!
YOU'LL NOT HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE!
CLEA! STOP!
MY POWER IS NOT ANTI-LIFE!
WHA--? OF COURSE! I DON'T KNOW WHY I LET GO LIKE THAT!
THE FLAMES OF FALTINE ARE ENOUGH TO SAVE US!
CURSE YOU, GIRL!


YOU WIELD--INCREDIBLE POWER, STEPHEN. I--NEVER REALIZED--HOW MUCH--
DON'T DWELL ON IT, DISCIPLE!
SHE'S HELD IT TOO LONG!
I MUST RETURN MY KNOWLEDGE TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE, IN A MIND PREPARED FOR IT!
DISCIPLE, TOUCH MY BROW WITH YOURS!
YES.
YOU HAVE MURDERED DR. STRANGE FOR ME, AND NEITHER CLEA, THE SCARLET WITCH, OR AGATHA HARKNESS CAN EQUAL ME NOW! I AM THE IRRESISTABLE FORCE!
LISTEN TO THE SPIRIT SCREAM--
IT TOLLS THE HOUR, UMAR--THE HOUR THAT SHALL WITNESS DORMAMMU REBORN!
"--AS HER PLANET SPLITS ASUNDER AT MY COMING!"

WE STAND COMPLETE ONCE MORE, CLEA. I HAVE MY POWERS BACK--
--AND YOU HAVE ONLY YOURS.
THEN LET US LEAVE THE DARK DOMAIN FOREVER, STEPHEN. LET US RETURN TO MOTHER NATURE! WE...
WAIT.
NO.
I AM BOUND TO MY PAST NO LONGER, BELOVED!
FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, I LOOK ONLY FORWARD FOR MY CHALLENGE!
AND YOU NEED LOOK NO FURTHER, SORCERESS, THAN THE ARIZONA DESERT SANDS!
NEXT ISSUE:
CONSUMMATION!